

Those Commissioners acted so vigorously and severely, that most of the Ministers in those Counties were suddenly *Ejected*; and amongst them, some that were worthy persons, that by their Lives and Doctrines were useful in that high Calling, and in Christian prudence and moderation, might have been reserved until (at least) others better qualified could have been found to supply their Places: But at that time their *Calling* and *orders* were accounted *crimes*; and for small faults done many years before were freshly arraigned, in order to their conviction.

The Commissioners by themselves and their *Agents* had the managing and disposing of the *Tithes* and *Ecclesiastick Revenue* there for three years by that *A&t*, which were *privately* let to many of their *relations* at *under-values*; for they posted none of their *Bargains*, nor used any means to improve the same for publick benefit: And for one other year, *viz.* 1653. they contynned the receiving & disposing thereof, by virtue of his late Highness Letter.

And it was observed, that many employed in this Work did suddenly and highly improve their Estates.

And one man before the Wars not worth 500*l.* hath since acquired above 5000*l. per Ann.*

The 10th. Mar. 1651. Complaint of the premisses was made to the then *Parliament* by Petition, attested by many hands of those 7 Counties, who prayed,

1. A supply of their Churches with such godly able Ministers as the Parliament should approve of.

2. That an exact accompt might be made of that Revenue, which was moderately estimated by the Petitioners at 2000*o l. per Ann.* and so much offered the Parliament for the same, and good security for the payment thereof.

The Parliament referred the Examination thereof to a Committee, with power to grant *Commissions* to the Country for the better discovery of the truth of the premisses.

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The Petitioners could never obtain any Commissions, or real Examination thereof, at that time eminent persons intrusted with the receiving and disposing of that Revenue, being members of Parliament: But in stead thereof, all means were used to suppress the same; and in order thereto

1. Col. *Freeman* the Petitioners Counsel (being then Attorney General of South-Wales, by Order of Parliament, and Patent under the Great Seal of England, *Habend. donec Parliament. Anglia aliter ordinaverit*, who had done eminent Service for the Commonwealth, and continued to this day faithful to the publick Cause of the Nation) was for prosecuting that Petition *imprisoned*, and after the dissolution of the long Parliament, by an Order of a few of the then Council *removed* out of his place.

And to add to his affliction, one *Edmund Jones*, a Compounded Delinquent of Record, who had violently acted during all the late Wars against the Parliament, and a grand Instrument of the Popish Party at Ragland, was by the means of the said Col. *Philip Jones* appointed Attorney General of South-Wales in the place of Col. *Freeman*.

This *Jones* did procure good Bargains from his young Mr. the Lord *Herbert* for Col. *Philip Jones*, who bought several Lordships from him, and was the main Agent and Instrument of the said Colonel in all his affairs and concernments in *Wales*.

Whereas the said *Jones* did give no other signal testimony of his good affection to the Parliament, then the most inveterate Cavaliers in all Eng. and *Wales* would do, viz.

To bear Offices of honor, power, and profit, and to be in a better capacity to serve the Malignant Party: And it is observed, that since the said *Jones* came to Authority there, the most notorious Delinquents and Cavaliers in South-Wales have also been vested with power; as Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Commissioners of the monethly Assessments, &c. Insomuch that all were fitted to observe the Arbitrary will and pleasure of him that recommended them to those places.

2. *John Gunter* the Petitioners Sollicitor (a person well affected) was for that cause several times *imprisoned*, turned out of many several *offices* and *employments*, and his *very life* as well as his *estate and good name* by horrid *perjury* endeavoured to be taken from him.

3. Divers of the Petitioners being *Justices of the Peace*, and *Commissioners, &c.* were *displaced*, and the self-endeavoured complying *Delinquents* put in their steads.

4. And last the *Parliament* it self was *dissolved*, whereby there was no inquiry or *accomp*t given of this great *Revenue*: And many are of opinion that their *dissolution* was hastened by the means of persons *lyable to accomp*ts.

That the cry of this busines ringing loud in the Ears of most persons, (though the poor people still were left *remediless*) it was so ordered, that a very formal *Commission* by an *ordinance* from his late *Highness and Council*, dated 30 *August 1654.* was procured to *Commissioners* to take the *Accompts* of the said *Commissioners* for *propagation*, and to give them *discharges*. And afterwards the same *ordinance* was confirmed in the last *Parliament*.

What *accomp*ts was taken, or *discharges* given, have not been thought fit to be made *publickly known*: however the *accomp*ants conceive themselves secure with their *discharges*. *Against which it is objected*;

1. That *Philip Lord Jones*, being chiefly intrusted with the *disposing* of the said *Revenue*, and being at the passing of the said *ordinance* one of his *Highness Council*, and thereby in a capacity as well to nominate as to prove the said *Commissioners*; It is conceived unreasonable he should have the *nomination* of persons to call himself and his associates to *accomp*ts.

2. Though the *Welsh Judges* (who were also placed with his consent, if not appointment) and some other Gentlemen of quality were named in this *ordinance* to give it the greater *Couenantance*, yet not any of them were called in to the taking of this *grand accomp*pt, nor was

was it probable in their *Circuits* they should have leisure to attend the same.

3. This *accomp* was taken at one time at *Swanze* by four or five persons that were either subject to an *accomp*, as *Farmers* of and *Agents* concerning *Sequestred Estates*, or of near *relation* and *subordination* to the *laid Colonel*, and very unlike to procure his *displeasure* by a true *examination* of those *accomp*s.

4. This *accomp* was also taken on the bare *Credit* of the *accomp*ants, without any *surcharge* or *examination* of *witnesses*, and in one *day*; which being effectually done would require some *moneths*.

obj. If it be objected, this *ordinance* was confirmed by *Parliament*, and their discharges barr a *reexamination*.

Ans. *Nullum tempus occurrit regi.* And this *Parliament* may *review* the *frauds*, *falsities*, and *deceits*, in the *passing* of those *accomp*s, if it shall so appear unto them; And the rather, for that in the *last Parliament*, none sat as *Members* for such parts, but such as were *accomp*ants, or Elected by the *recommendation*, *approbation*, or *interest* of the *accomp*ants.

The 29th of *August* 1654. those *Commissioners* named for *South-Wales* in the *ordinance* then passed by his *Highness* and *Council* for *Ejecting* of *Scandalous Ministers* and *School-masters*, were also named by *Philip Lord Jones*, whereof seventeen are those formerly *intrusted* with the *disposing* of the *Tithes* and *Church-revenue*.

By colour whereof they and their former *Agents* continued the letting and disposing of the said revenue to this day, being full nine years since they were first *intrusted* therewith; which for that time is conceived to amount to above 150000 *l.* And to this time the *respective Parishes* mustlye *unsupplied* with *Ministers* and *School-masters*, many of the *Shire Towns*, and many *Market Towns* having no *Ministers* settled to preach the *Gospel* amongst them.

As

As to the Estates of *Pepists and Deling.* in South Wales; That for the time the same was managed by the *Committees*, there hath been no true accompt yet given the *Commonwealth* for the same, amounting to a great value; those very estates of *Delinquents in armes* sold by *Act of Parliament*, being surveyed and retorne on oath to be anually worth 3654 l. 11 s. 3 d. ob. q. And the improvement thereof to 895 l. 13 s. 1 d. which during the war, and until the same was sold lay under *Sequestration*.

That Complaint to the *Commissioners* at *Haberdashers-Hall* being made against Colonel *Jones*, and the *Sub-Commissioners* for *Sequestration* in *South-Wales* (of his recommendation) that no due accompt was given the *Commonwealth* of this revenue; The *Commissioners* amoved those they formerly *Commissioned* there, yet nevertheless afterwards gave way for Colonel *Jones* to name new *Commissioners*, and put out three *sub-Commissioners* for *Breconshire*, that in a short time whilst they acted had *doubly advanced* the *revenue* there; And to this day there is no true accompt given the *Commonwealth* of this revenue, which as is conceived wil amount to a vast *Summe of money* if duly inquired into.

Forasmuch as these matters were transacted in seven *Counties*, consisting of seven hundred *Parishes*, very remote; and it is impossible that a true and exact accompt can be had of all these *revenues*, without the *Ministers*, and three or four of the most knowing *Freeholders* in every *Parish* be examined on oath touching the same, which a *Committee of Parliament* cannot have leisure to attend, nor the people brought hither without *Excessive charge and trouble*:

In order to the taking of all these *Accompts*, it is therefore humbly proposed,

1. That none of the *Commissioners of Propagation*, or their near friends and relations that are now members of *Parliament*, may fit in any *Committee* to vote or judge of their

their own accomplices or concertmen, or to obstruct the effectual carrying on of this work.

2. That a convenient number of discreet able Persons of no relation or dependance on the said accomplices, may be appointed Commissioners for South-Wales and County of Monmouth by Act of Parliament, or by Commission under the great Seal of England, or his Highness Court of Exchequer, with sufficient power, To send for Persons, papers, and witnesses, and to examine witnesses on oath touching the particulars following, viz.

1. The real valuations of the *Tithes* and *Church-livings* and other *Ecclesiastical Benefices*, and promotions in every individual Parish there.

2. When every *Minister* and *School-master* was Ejected.

3. Who received and disposed of the *Tithes*, &c. And how long, and what is become of the moneys thereby raised.

4. What willful miscarriages and indirect proceedings were used in the letting and disposing of that revenue at undervalues to friends and relations, and what rewards were given for such Bargains.

5. When every *Minister* and *School-master* was put in the roomes of those Ejected.

6. What such *Ministers* and *School-masters*, and all others the Commissioners agents were allowed and payed; And at the foot of this account it will appear what *Surplusage* is justly due to the *Commonwealth*.

3. And that the same Commissioners may receive the accompts of the *Committees* and *Commissioners* of *Sequestration*, with the like power given them for that purpose.

4. And for the better and more effectual carrying on of this good work, that *Council* and *Solicitors* may be assigned, and a fitting *incontragement* and *protection* given them therein.

Which being granted and effectually put in execution, there will undoubtedly appear to be due to the Com-

monwealth over and above all just and necessary payments and allowance; above 100000 l.

As to the Peoples civil Rights and Freedomes in those Parts;

It would be almost incredible to relate, and too voluminous herein to insert the many false imprisonments, forcible Entries, partaking in Causes and Suites, protecting and countenancing of horious Offenders, and taking away of mens Rights and Estates in those Parts, and many other injuries, misdemeanors, and oppressions done, being very grievous and intolerable; the particulars whereof are ready to be exhibited to Parliament when they have leisure to examine matters of that nature, which for the present are herein omitted.

And in truth how can it be otherwise expected, when all these Powers for many years have centred in one Person: viz.

The recommendation and nomination of all members of Parliament, Judges, Justices, Sheriffs, Commissioners of the monethly Assessment, Commissioners of Decimation, Sequestration, Treasurers, Collectors, Excisemen, and all other Officers, Miliary, Civil, and Ecclesiastick, who on the least displeasure given, are subject to be as easily removed, as they were first impowered, which hath been frequently practised in those Parts; Especially those Malignants and Cavaliers in authority, who being conscious of their own guilt and incapacity, are the more slavish and apt to act any thing arbitrarily at the will and pleasure of their Patron.

It is therefore humbly left to considerat ion,

1. Whether any one man in the beginning of these Wars, being not worth in all the world 500l. could since by lawful honest means acquire an estate of above 3000l. per Annum.

2. whether it be not fit to enquire how he came by this great Estate, the Commonwealth being in great want of money.

3. whether it be safe for the people, or consistent with the policy and prudence of a well governed State, to continue such a person in such an absolute authority over his counties, which he hath exercised in manner aforesaid, for above seven years last past.

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